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Appendix D

Selected Soviet Comment on U.S. Domestic Conditions

Yuriy Kornilov (Selskaya Zhizn, 12 Oct 85)

A true democracy is incompatible with the cult of force inside a country. It is inconceivable in a state where a blanket-coverage machinery for coercion has been built and is at work and where a system for arbitrary government rule has been established. But this is precisely the case in the United States. Hardly a week passes without reports coming in from that country about the ruthless repression of people found guilty or even just suspected of "dissidence"--people whose views contradict the views and policies of the ruling class. . . . The whip of most merciless reprisals is being used in the United States today to scourge a student marching in an antiwar demonstration, a black American raising his voice in protest against discrimination and racism, a factory worker who has joined a strike and a newsman who has had the temerity to reveal another sore of corruption. The turbid waves of violence, terror, and ruthlessness roll over America.

Robert Serebrennikov (TASS, 9 Oct 85)

The speculations about "freedom of conscience," the favorite topic of U.S. Administration officials, are rejected by realities in the United States. While pursuing a policy of state-sponsored terrorism in international affairs, Washington has launched an all-out offensive at home on basic human rights, toughened discrimination against national minorities and stepped up police arbitrariness. The persecution of "prisoners of conscience" has become a norm of life in the United States.

Unattributed report (TASS, 22 Sep 85)

President Reagan is leading things to bankruptcy of countryside America; he upholds the interests only of big agribusiness monopolies. This statement has been made on local radio by Democratic Senator Tom Harkin who represents in Congress Iowa, one of the granaries of the country. The acute crisis now being experienced by small and medium-small farms, the senator said, has led to a growth in suicides, divorces, and alcohol addiction among farmers. Many countryside families feel despair. American farmers are going bankrupt as a result of the Republican Party's agricultural policy, the senator said.

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Aleksandr Lyutiy (TASS, 17 Sep 85)

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees Americans the freedom of speech. This guarantee, however, remained on paper. Anyone daring to disagree with America's practices today faces threats, repression, and prison. Dozens of antiwar activists have been imprisoned only because they have voiced their indignation over the arms race, which is being escalated by Washington and which threatens to push the world to the brink of nuclear catastrophe. The Fourth Amendment guarantees the American right to the inviolability of their homes, which, according to the Constitution, cannot be subjected to "unreasonable searches." In reality this stipulation is being constantly violated in the United States today. Under the Republican Administration, Americans are exposed to unprecedented scrutiny. The FBI, the political security service, has compiled information on virtually the entire adult population of the United States. The telephones of a large number of people are tapped and the homes of "dissidents" are searched without any explanations or court warrants.

Igor Charikov (Moscow domestic radio, 17 Sep 85)

In recent years we have learned an increasing number of facts about the persecution of those Americans who come out against the stepping up of military expenditure and against U.S. interference in the internal affairs of other states. They include representatives of various levels of society from workers to eminent cultural and scientific figures. It is precisely against these that the U.S. repressive apparatus is spearheaded--an apparatus which receives from the Administration increasingly wide powers. In attacking the constitutional rights and liberties of their citizens, the ruling circles of the United States again show their hypocrisy in such a really important and topical question as the observation of human rights.

Yevgeniy Yegorov (TASS, 30 Aug 85)

Sixty million Americans are "functionally illiterate," i.e., they cannot read a newspaper or fill out questionnaires, which are in such a wide use in that bureaucratic country. The public organizations in charge of education problems are unanimous in blaming the Reagan Administration for the drop in the educational level in the United States. The United States cuts from year to year spending on education as well as on other social programs, for the sake of diverting the funds thus released to military programs. . . . The White House encourages racism at U.S. schools. The Education

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Department has ended an investigation of cases of discrimination at secondary and higher educational establishments. All sorts of pretexts are used to increase aid to private schools, where the children of black Americans and Hispanics are not admitted The current Administration would like to turn the American schools into breeding grounds of religious obscurantism and reactionary ideas.

Aleksandr Lyutiy (TASS, 24 Aug 85)

Discrimination against women is characteristic not only of political life, but also of the socioeconomic life of the United States. American women, who make up 42 percent of the hired labor force, still get, on an average, only 59 percent of men's wages for equal work. Eighty percent of working American women are employed in the lowest paid sectors of production and consumer-oriented services. At the same time their share among the scientific community, electronics specialists, physicians, lawyers, and engineers is only 2 percent. A constitutional amendment on women's equal rights with men is known to have been recently "shelved" once again. It is not by chance that the U.S. national women's organization referred to the American women as the country's "second-rate citizens."

Yuriy Kornilov (Moscow domestic radio, 4 Jul 85)

The entire policy of the Republican Administration, which has set a course toward a sharp and unprecedented reduction of the most important and vital social programs, is constructed so that the social problems which are literally tearing America apart are not only not being eased but are becoming deeper and more acute. The army of those completely jobless in the United States today is more than 8 million strong. The picture of flourishing America, which bourgeois propaganda presents as little short of a society of universal prosperity, would not be complete without mentioning that over 30 million American citizens--according to official figures--live in the very depths of poverty, 20 million people suffer from chronic undernourishment and 13 million annually are victims of criminals. These are the consequences for ordinary Americans of the policies of the American Administration, which are allegedly pursued in the interests of the whole of society.

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Vladimir Kudryavtsev (TASS, 3 Jul 85)

It is known that in the United States the special services hold files on 34 million so-called "suspicious citizens." Violation of human rights, dismissal from work, breaking up demonstrations, arrests, and kidnappings are widespread in the capitalist countries. But all these crying violations are carefully overlooked by bourgeois propagandists; they do not notice them, so to speak.

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